



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 16, 2017

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: SB 687, SD 2 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: March 17, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. Expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members. Allows the board to appoint the director of the executive office on early learning.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** SB 687, SD2 with recommendations for amendments.

In addition to transforming the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) into a governing board, this legislation proposes to redefine the definition of "at risk" to include children whose family income is no more than "three hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level." EOEL proposes that consideration be given to include children whose family income is no more than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. While this will allow EOEL to extend the Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to working class families, EOEL recommends that priority should be extended to those who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty level as these families may not otherwise be able to afford a high-quality pre-kindergarten program for their child.

In order to fulfill the comprehensive responsibilities of the office, it is imperative that the Director of the Executive Office of Early Learning has professional training that includes major coursework in early childhood education and child development, preferably a degree in the field. The Director needs a solid grounding in the early childhood education in order to serve as a bridge-builder across programs that touch the lives of children (pre-natal through 8 years), multiple agencies (DOH, DHS, DOE, and Headstart), and diverse non-profit service providers.

EOEL prefers the House version of this bill HB 498, HD1 and respectfully recommends the following amendments:

- 1) On page 2, line 21 and page 3, line 12, the word, “fifty,” should be removed;
- 2) On page 4, line 8 the following should be included with respect to the qualifications of the Executive Director, “to include major coursework in early childhood education and child development, and preferably hold an academic degree in the field of early childhood education and child development;”
- 3) Page 8, lines 4-5 should be revised to, “A representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors, or the representative’s designee.”
- 4) Page 10, lines 3-6 should read, “The representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors shall serve a three-year term.
- 5) On page 19, with respect to enrollment priority, the following should be included following line 15, “provided that priority shall be given to children whose family income is at or below two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair
Members of the House Education Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 687 SD 2, Relating to Early Learning – Hearing March 17, 2017,
2:00 PM, Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and over the past 10 years, I have served as a Chair of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and currently as Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the ELAB in support of SB 687 SD 2, relating to early learning, which broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development, expands the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and allows the Board to appoint and evaluate the Executive Director of Early Learning.

Act 178 established the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) as an office of the Governor, created the ELAB and provided for the EOEL to become an attached agency to the Department of Education for administrative purposes beginning in 2015. The ELAB's function has been strictly an advisory one and the EOEL has lacked an oversight board. This legislation seeks to change the ELAB's role by giving it authority to appoint and evaluate the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, set the Director's salary and the power, in accordance with the law, to formulate statewide policy relating to early learning.

The EOEL is charged with the development and administration of a high quality early learning system for Hawai'i's children from birth until they enter kindergarten. This legislation would provide the oversight and authority of a board to guide the strategic direction of that system development while supporting and holding the EOEL accountable for designing a high quality cohesive, comprehensive and sustainable system. It retains the diverse public/private membership to assist these efforts but reduces the number of voting members. In the end, this bill will address the one missing link in governance for the P-20 continuum, a board for early learning to complement the BOE and the Board of Regents.

This legislation proposes to redefine the definition of "at risk" to include children whose family income is no more than "three hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level." ELAB supports the EOEL proposal that consideration be given to include children whose family income is no more than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level on page 3, lines 12-13. While this will allow EOEL to extend the Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to working class families, EOEL recommends that priority should be extended to those who may not otherwise be able to afford a high-quality pre-kindergarten program for their child. EOEL proposes that the language on page 19, lines 3-5 be revised to, "The program shall serve children in the year prior to the year of kindergarten eligibility, with priority extended to those whose family income is below two-hundred and fifty percent of the federal poverty level."

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the ELAB which strongly encourages the passage of this bill with recommended changes.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

SUBJECT: SB 687, SD 2 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: March 17, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. Expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members. Allows the board to appoint the director of the executive office on early learning. (SD 2)

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION’S POSTION: The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** SB687 SD2 – Relating to Early Learning.

The State Public Charter School Commission recognizes the importance of broadening the scope of the early learning programs to include early childhood development to support a holistic approach for Hawaii’s youngest keiki.

The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** the expansion of the early learning governance structure to support high quality early childhood programs in Hawaii. We support the measure as it will assist the state in providing a multi-dimensional, cross-sector approach to address the needs of our keiki.

For these reason, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 16, 2017

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: SB 687, SD 2 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: March 17, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. Expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members. Allows the board to appoint the director of the executive office on early learning.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** SB 687, SD2 with recommendations for amendments.

In addition to transforming the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) into a governing board, this legislation proposes to redefine the definition of "at risk" to include children whose family income is no more than "three hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level." EOEL proposes that consideration be given to include children whose family income is no more than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. While this will allow EOEL to extend the Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to working class families, EOEL recommends that priority should be extended to those who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty level as these families may not otherwise be able to afford a high-quality pre-kindergarten program for their child.

In order to fulfill the comprehensive responsibilities of the office, it is imperative that the Director of the Executive Office of Early Learning has professional training that includes major coursework in early childhood education and child development, preferably a degree in the field. The Director needs a solid grounding in the early childhood education in order to serve as a bridge-builder across programs that touch the lives of children (pre-natal through 8 years), multiple agencies (DOH, DHS, DOE, and Headstart), and diverse non-profit service providers.

EOEL prefers the House version of this bill HB 498, HD1 and respectfully recommends the following amendments:

- 1) On page 2, line 21 and page 3, line 12, the word, “fifty,” should be removed;
- 2) On page 4, line 8 the following should be included with respect to the qualifications of the Executive Director, “to include major coursework in early childhood education and child development, and preferably hold an academic degree in the field of early childhood education and child development;”
- 3) Page 8, lines 4-5 should be revised to, “A representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors, or the representative’s designee.”
- 4) Page 10, lines 3-6 should read, “The representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors shall serve a three-year term.
- 5) On page 19, with respect to enrollment priority, the following should be included following line 15, “provided that priority shall be given to children whose family income is at or below two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



March 15, 2017

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Karen Worthington, Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: SB687-SD2 – Relating to Early Learning
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, March 17, 2017, 2:00 PM

Position: Action Strategy supports SB687 Relating to Early Learning

Dear Representative Woodson, Representative Har, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Early Childhood Action Strategy, a public private collaborative that recognizes the strength of communities and works across sectors to increase the number of young children in Hawaii who are born healthy, developing on track, ready for school when they enter kindergarten, and proficient learners by third grade.

Action Strategy supports the passage of SB687-SD2 because the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) are critical components of an early childhood system in Hawaii that can lead to more children born healthy, developing on track and successful in school.

Action Strategy supports SB687-SD2 which seeks to change the role of ELAB by giving it the authority to appoint and evaluate the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning; allowing it to set the Director's salary; and providing it the power, in accordance with the law, to formulate statewide policy relating to early learning. The bill

Action Strategy Testimony on SB687-SD2
March 15, 2017
Page 2

provides that ELAB retains its diverse public-private membership that is essential to developing a high-quality, comprehensive, cohesive early childhood system while also keeping the membership number manageable for a board with this scope of responsibilities.

SB 687-SD2 also amends the statutory definition of “at risk children” to include children whose family income is no more than “three hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level” rather than the current statutory designation of “two hundred fifty percent.” This change will expand opportunities for many children to benefit from early learning programs.

Action Strategy is committed to ensuring Hawaii’s young children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and SB687-SD2 supports that vision. Please feel free to contact me for additional information. I can be reached at 808-214-9336 or karen@clnhawaii.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Karen Worthington, JD
Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy
700 Bishop Street, Ste. 701
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 15, 2017

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 687 SD 2 – Relating to Early Learning**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, March 17, 2017, 2:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 687 SD 2 – Relating to Early Learning.

This bill will widen the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development, expand the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB), and allow the ELAB to appoint and evaluate the Executive Director of Early Learning.

The Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL) mission is to develop and administer a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children from birth until they enter kindergarten. In 2015, the EOEL shifted from being an office of the Governor to become an attached agency to the Department of Education. The same act that established EOEL also created the ELAB, whose role has been strictly advisory. **SB 687 SD 2** seeks to change the ELAB's role by giving it the authority to appoint and evaluate the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning; allowing it to set the Director's salary; and providing it the power, in accordance with the law, to formulate statewide policy relating to early learning.

SB 687 SD 2 would provide the oversight and authority of a board to guide the strategic direction of the system development while supporting and holding the EOEL accountable for developing a high-quality, cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable system. The ELAB would retain the diverse public/private membership but reduces the number of voting members. In the end, this bill will add a key aspect needed in governance for the P-20 continuum, a board for early learning to compliment the Board of Education and the Board of Regents.

Another important facet of **SB 687 SD 2** is the amendment of the “at risk” definition to include children whose family income is no more than “three hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level” rather than current statute designation of “two hundred fifty percent.” This change will expand opportunities for families currently excluded to gain access to early learning programs. Providing many more children the opportunity to benefit from quality early learning experiences leading to school and life success.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii’s children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai’i Children’s Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: March 17, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee

RE: **SB 687, SD2, Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Har a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha! My name is Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona and I serve as Managing Director of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support SB 687, SD2**, relating to early learning, and offer the following comments: This measure broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. It expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:09 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: nishiom@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB687 on Mar 17, 2017 14:00PM*

SB687

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 17, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miya Nishio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: Robyn S. B. Chun

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 309

TITLE OF BILL: SB 687 SD 2 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Honorable Chair, Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Committee Members

I strongly support HB 687 SD 2 Relating to Early Learning. I appreciate the forward thinking of our state lawmakers. Supporting early learning is a long-term investment in the well-being of our state and our fledgling Executive Office of Early Learning provides a critical role in creating a seamless continuum of experiences, especially for our most vulnerable children.

SB 687 SD 2 makes needed amendments to Sec. 302L-1 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes that defines the scope of the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) so that it is consistent with the focus of programs and services provided for young children (pre-natal-kindergarten) and their families. Early learning programs are concerned about health and well-being and support learning across all developmental domains so that each child can reach his or her developmental potential.

Revisions to the statute provide clarity about the role and responsibilities of the board as well as the Board's relationship to the Executive Office of Early Learning. They provide constancy in the Director's position that will enable smooth functioning of the Office when there are changes in Administration. Redefining "at-risk children" to include families with no more than 350% of the federal poverty level and to include vulnerable groups such as children with special needs and children who are English Language learners increases the number of families eligible for services in places where programs are scarce.

Additionally, the requirement for principals and key personnel to participate in an induction program prior to opening public prekindergarten classrooms increases the likelihood that elementary schools are better informed about the developmental needs of preschoolers and are better prepared to select staff with coursework and qualifications in early childhood education and implement the programmatic differences necessary to support the learning and development of preschoolers. This is especially important since coursework or training in child development/early childhood education is outside the scope of teacher preparation programs for principals and a majority of the K-6 personnel.

I would suggest one revision, to p. 4, line 7-8. **I believe it is essential that the Director of the Executive Office of Early Learning has professional training that includes specialized major coursework in early childhood education and child development, preferably a degree in the field** as stated in amendments to HB 498, HD1. The Director

must possess a solid grounding in the early childhood education in order to serve as a bridge-builder across programs that touch the lives of children (pre-natal through 8 years), multiple agencies (DOH, DHS, DOE, and Headstart), and diverse non-profit service providers.

This is a complex, emerging field. Hawai'i is in our infancy in terms of developing a state infrastructure to intentionally invest in programs and workforce development that will ensure that every child has the opportunity to benefit from experiences that reflect the current research early learning and development. The Director needs extensive knowledge of the child development and early learning in order to ensure that the state intentionally develops a system of programs and services that reflects the research base.